

IN THE CLAMS

Claims 1-27 (cancelled);

28. (New) A telecommunications device, comprising:

a connector for connecting a back I/O card to at least a portion of a PCI bus on a midplane.

29. (New) A method of transferring telecommunication transmissions comprising:

Using a PCI bus connector to establish a connection between a rear I/O card and a second front card or rear card, upon receiving a failure indication associated with a first front card corresponding to said rear card.

30. (New) A method of transferring telecommunication transmissions comprising:

connecting a rear I/O card to a set of midplane traces associated with a PCI bus of said midplane upon receiving a failure indication associated with a front card corresponding to said rear card.

31. (New) A method of transferring telecommunication transmissions comprising:

allocating at least a portion of a PCI bus for communications between a rear card and a backup front or rear card.

32. (New) A rear card of a telecommunications device, comprising:

an isolation relay adapted to route incoming signals from a back card to a backup card through at least a portion of a PCI bus upon receiving a failure indication associated with a front card currently connected to said back card.

33. (New) A telecommunications device, comprising:

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a control circuit, which upon receiving a indication signal associated with a first front card currently connected to a rear card, is adapted to redirect communications from said rear card to a second front card or a second rear card over at least a portion of a PCI bus.

34. (New) A device according to claim 33, wherein said indication is received over at least a portion of said PCI bus.
